

Introduced by Senator Runner

February 18, 2011

An act to amend Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 699, as introduced, Runner. Pupil instruction: graduation requirements: pupil in foster care.

Existing law requires a pupil to complete specified courses while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school. Existing law authorizes the governing board of a school district to adopt rules specifying additional coursework requirements. Existing law also provides that a school district shall exempt a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements for graduation if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12, transfers into the district from another school district or between high schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she remains eligible for foster care benefits.

This bill would instead provide that a school district shall exempt a pupil from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements for graduation if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12, and while he or she is in foster care, involuntarily transfers into the district from another school district or between high schools within the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time

to graduate from high school on or before his or her 18th birthday. The bill would also provide that the pupil shall not be exempt if the school will continue to enroll the pupil until his or her 19th birthday and the district makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements on or before his or her 19th birthday.

By requiring school districts to perform additional duties in complying with the exemption requirement, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while
- 4 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of
- 5 graduation from high school:
- 6 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects
- 7 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless
- 8 otherwise specified:
- 9 (A) Three courses in English.
- 10 (B) Two courses in mathematics.
- 11 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
- 12 sciences.
- 13 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States
- 14 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a
- 15 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a
- 16 one-semester course in economics.
- 17 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.
- 18 For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this
- 19 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
- 20 deemed a course in foreign language.

1 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been
2 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

3 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
4 board of the school district.

5 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,
6 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means
7 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may
8 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,
9 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,
10 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses
11 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,
12 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a
13 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and
14 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course
15 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

16 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school district
17 shall exempt a pupil ~~in foster care~~ from all coursework and other
18 requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that
19 are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified
20 in this section if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12,
21 *and while he or she is in foster care, involuntarily* transfers into
22 the district from another school district or between high schools
23 within the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil
24 is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time
25 to graduate from high school ~~while he or she remains eligible for~~
26 ~~foster care benefits pursuant to state law on or before his or her~~
27 *18th birthday. The pupil shall not be exempt if the school will*
28 *continue to enroll the pupil until his or her 19th birthday and the*
29 *district makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to*
30 *complete the additional requirements on or before his or her 19th*
31 *birthday.* A school district shall notify a pupil in foster care who
32 is granted an exemption pursuant to this subdivision, and, as
33 appropriate, the person holding the right to make educational
34 decisions for the pupil, if any of the requirements that are waived
35 will affect the pupil's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary
36 educational institution and shall provide information about transfer
37 opportunities available through the California Community
38 Colleges.

39 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
40 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to

- 1 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
- 2 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
- 3 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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